

## XVIII.—BUTTERFLY MIGRATION.

(DANAIS MELISSA DRAVIDARUM AND EUPLOEA C. CORE)

During a trip I noted many interesting things new to me, on one of them I would like further information. Perhaps you can help me. It concerns butterflies. In early July I watched a migration of butterflies for eight days, a continuous stream passing at the rate of thousands a minute, all heading west, and stretching, to my knowledge, ten miles on either side of Kolar town. In sheltered places they hung on bushes in such numbers as to weigh the branches down. They were all of two varieties, one black with pale blue spots, the other sooty black with white spots on the edge of the wings and both had a wing span of about three inches. Have I seen something unusual or is this a common happening in this area.

July 20, 1943.

Your letter and Journal have arrived for which many thanks. What a pity I was not aware you wanted details and specimens of butterfly migrations. I took very few notes at the time and could easily have sent you ten thousand specimens. I cannot add much to the details I have already given you. The exact dates were July 5th to 12th and the flight was in progress when I arrived in the district and ended on the 12th. I was able to observe them the whole time as I was driving a car backwards and forwards every day over the 20 miles. The flight never ceased during day light but I did not see one on the move after dark. There was a strong S.-W. breeze blowing the whole time with occasional heavy showers and they were flying into the wind between ground level and 12 ft. The two species were in about equal numbers. Under the trees and bushes where they were resting, the ground was littered with wings, never a complete specimen, just single wings. Had something been feeding on them? I did not take any specimens from the flight but am enclosing one of each species which I caught in Bangalore today. From the illustrations in the Journal I should say that they are *D. septentrionis* and *Euploea core*. A friend has told me today of driving for about six miles through a flight of the same two species about 40 miles east of Kolar on the Madras road on May 5th this year.

No. 1 COY. 3RD I.A.F. SIGNALS,

W. L. FRENCH.

September 9, 1943.

[The specimens received were identified as *Danais melissa dravidarum* Frnh. and *Euploea core core* Cr.—Eds.]